

Speaker: *Piotr Chlebowicz*

Presentation title: Supply mechanisms for illicit markets. The phenomenon in the context of gun violence, the Polish perspective

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It is worth remembering that black market firearms availability is a dynamic category. It is because of its nature that it is necessary to constantly monitor the illegal firearms market and carry out in-depth scientific research. Apart from the sale of single weapons to poachers, perpetrators of racketeering and extortion, drug dealers or traders within the organised crime structures, there are also other forms, characterised by many cooperating perpetrators functioning in complex organisational structures, utilising broad logistical, financial and intellectual support. Moreover, quantitative or qualitative changes in the availability of firearms observed in one country may affect other actors that recognize the Schengen acquis. Linkages between illicit firearms trafficking with other criminal phenomena are also crucial. Even if only a secondary activity, illicit firearms trade undertaken by organised crime groups makes use of their organisational resources, structures, contacts, trafficking routes, or formal and informal connections made in the course of other criminal activities. Moreover, a better intelligence view on the impact of illicit firearms trafficking on gun violence is significant for developing adequate institutional responses. The authors of the presentation, based on a wide range of data sources (including official statistics and reports, data provided by institutions under the Act on Access to Public Information, diagnostic surveys, semi-structured interviews, police reports, forensic expert opinions, court files, media information and data sets collected by the team as a result of previous research on illegal markets and organized crime), try to answer the question whether the size of the black market of firearms affects the phenomenon of gun violence in Poland.